

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 19 Feb 52

SUBJECT Shortage of Photogelatin in the Russian Zone

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. One of the most serious bottlenecks in the photochemical industry in the DDR is the shortage of photogelatin. The only (sic) producer of photogelatin in the East Zone is the Chemisches und pharmazeutisches Werk Kalbe, Calbe/Saale (VVB Variochem). According to the most recent calculation of the Secretariat for Material Procurement, the East Zone photographic industry will require 670 tons of photogelatin in the year 1952 in order to fulfill set production quotas. The Calbe plant will be able to supply 80 tons of relatively inferior photogelatin, leaving 590 tons to be imported. The principal Western suppliers of photogelatin

2. The DDR was scheduled to receive 150 tons of photogelatin from the USSR in 1951, but as of 1 November 1951, only 48 tons of usable photogelatin had been received. Seventy-five per cent of this amount went to the VVB Photographie*** and 25 per cent to the Filmfabrik Wolfen (SAG Photoplenka). As of 1 November, the Filmfabrik Wolfen had received 430 tons of photogelatin from the West in 1951. Sixty to seventy per cent of this amount came from the Deutsche Gelatine-Fabriken, 15 per cent from the Chemische Werke Stoess & Co. GmbH, and the rest from Delft and Rousselot.

* [REDACTED] Comment: Not further identified but may possibly be the firm of H. Van Delft, Techn. Handelsond., Amsterdam.

** [REDACTED] Comment: This is probably the Compagnie Centrale Rousselot, 50 rue Bouteau, Paris.

*** [REDACTED] Comment: There is no VVB Photographie listed among the nationalized plants of the DDR. Possibly the VVB Optik, under which plants belonging to the photographic industry are grouped, is meant.

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